Bryant Bolds II

Trifles Design Worksheet

1. The way an audience perceives the play is shaped by the choice of performance venue, as well as the set that is designed for the play. Indeed, all the elements that you see and hear during a performance are bound to shape your perception of the play. Which of the following venues do you think can best meet the needs of the play?

**Proscenium**

Arena

Thrust

Flexible

Given the details in the script, why do you think it is the best venue for a production?

The Proscenium would best suit Trifles because the play is mostly set in the kitchen of Mr. and Mrs. Wright’s home. In addition, there is minimal character movement which would be disadvantageous when dealing with the other style of staging.

2. What are some of the challenges posed by the play on the design team?

Although the play is set in the kitchen, the set should still feel as though it is still a portion of the entire home due to the fact that the men continue to leave into other parts of the home to search for more clues. In addition, where the sink should be placed in the room so that the characters are not doing too much “back-acting” during the play is also an important variable.

3. Choose a character from the play and suggest how she/he should be dressed. In what ways do you think the costume would help accentuate his/her character?

Mrs. Hale should either be dressed traditionally in a dress that would be common for the prairie and time setting of the play, or she should be dressed in pants due to the fact that in the era that she existed this would be seen as a move towards feminism. This could compliment her actions of protecting Mrs. Wright and being offended by the men’s heckling. When Mrs. Peters locked up when trying to hide the canary, Mrs. Hale confidently hid the canary and continued the rouse of ignorance that the men subscribed to them.

4. Given the content of the play, how might the lighting design help further the mood of the production?

The lighting could range from moments of dimness when the play flashes back to the original encounter with Mrs. Wright after the murder to support the idea of the situation being a memory. Thus it should be dimmer, murkier and more concentrated on a more direct action than the rest of the play. However, after this the lighting should return to its normal state due to the fact that the rest of the play does not change setting or point of view.

5. Suggest music or sound effects that might be used to accentuate the mood or atmosphere of the play and the transitions between parts of the play.

Whenever the men prepare to return the kitchen footsteps should be audible to the audience so that they will know that the men are returning. This will allow the women to have backing for their rushing to hide the dead bird because they and the audience both know that the men will be returning in mere seconds. A slight musical transition could also be added to the moment where the play flashes back to the memory of the first encounter with Mrs. Wright, and the pace of the music could possibly increase when the women are rushing to hide the canary, but other than those moments the music should remain the same due to the fact that the setting, mood and point of view of the play remains stagnant during the other moments.